

DARBY LUMBER LANDS WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT AND TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PROJECT – PHASE I

MONITORING PLAN – DN/FONSI APPENDIX C

JULY 2, 2015

This document represents the monitoring plan for the Darby Lumber Lands Watershed Improvement and Travel Management Project – Phase I (“the project”), as directed by the DN/FONSI and compliant with the Environmental Assessment. It adds specific direction to the monitoring included with Alternative B, the preferred alternative.

Supporting text from the EA, Section 2.6.3, p. 19:

“BNF monitoring results have found that similar road treatment projects have been successful in meeting watershed and fisheries goals of reducing road system effects (PF- AQUATICS-001). These results suggest this project will have similar effects and high-level, project-specific monitoring is not necessary. The proposed monitoring is based on implementing the project according to the Design Features Table 2.2. The BNF has an ongoing program to monitor OHV use off designated trails and roads, and this would occur within the project area. This project would include specific monitoring as follows:

1. Inspect contracted work with certified contracting officer representatives, and inspect Forest crew and Partnership-accomplished work with watershed staff. The Forest Watershed group is responsible for seeing that the work is accomplished to specification, using watershed program funding.
2. Inspect decommissioning and storage work within the first three years after completion to assess the level of success in reestablishing watershed processes and erosion-control seeding. The hydrologist and soil scientist are responsible for checking re-vegetation effectiveness, using watershed program funding.
3. Monitor new OHV and single-track routes for resource effects within the first two years, using photo-point documentation and an interdisciplinary approach. The trails, soils and hydrology staff are responsible for checking OHV effects and making recommendations.
4. Monitor compliance with access designations using the OHV Ranger, Trails staff and Law Enforcement Officers, as budget and staffing allows.” The trails, soils and hydrology staff are responsible for making recommendations based on these findings.”

Monitoring Schedule, Intensity, and Location

Monitoring Item	Method	Schedule	Intensity	Location	Duration
1, Implementation Monitoring – was the work in the EA/DN	Simple field review of completion for restoration and OHV project	During implementation	As needed to certify contracted work for payment, bi-weekly for Force Account	All contracted work, one location per cycle for Force Account	Ends with implementation

Monitoring Item	Method	Schedule	Intensity	Location	Duration
completed?	components.		work		
2, Effectiveness Monitoring – was the completed work effective in achieving goals, especially vegetation	Simple field review of revegetation effectiveness & future needs, with photo points and GPS location	Within 3 years of implementation	One visit, or as needed to finish all locations.	5 different road segments, varying contract and Force Account sites, aspect and elevation.	Ends 3 years after implementation
3, Effectiveness and Validation Monitoring – are erosion issues occurring on OHV loops? Are BMPs maintained and effective?	Simple field review with photo points. If supported by staff and budget, set up trail cross-section surveys at key locations.	Initial visits within two years after implementation & opening of two OHV connectors	One visit every 2 years for 4 years; thereafter determined by initial results.	2 different OHV connectors and associated loops each 2-year cycle.	No end date, continue as budget and effects support the need
4, Motorized Use Regulatory Compliance and Enforcement – are OHVs staying on designated trails? Should management be changed due to effects?	Simple field review with photo points and GPS location. Maintain log of visits and results	Initial visits within two years after implementation & opening of two OHV connectors	One visit every 2 years for 4 years; thereafter determined by initial results.	2 different OHV connectors and associated loops each 2-year cycle.	No end date, continue as budget and effects support the need

All reports would be formatted and used in Forest Plan reporting, and would be available to the public on the same schedule. Public participation is desired, however if none is enlisted BNF staff would complete as scheduled. The monitoring schedule is likely to be affected by large fire years, budget cuts in the OHV ranger program and staff vacancies, if they occur.